The University of Minnesota began its relationship with TCF Bank in 1995. The University Card Royalty Agreement (the "U Card Agreement") became effective October 31, 2003. In 2005, at the time of the stadium naming agreement with TCF Bank, the term of the U Card Agreement was lengthened to 2023 with an optional 6 year extension. It is conterminous with the naming agreement.

The U Card Agreement grants TCF Bank the exclusive right to offer checking accounts that can be accessed with the University's photo identification card, commonly known as the "U Card." It also provides for various conveniences and benefits to persons who choose to open checking accounts with TCF Bank, and for royalty payments to the University.

A student, staff or faculty member is not required to open a bank account as a condition of being issued a U Card. A U Card may be used as a convenient cashless way to pay for goods and services using funds previously deposited in a declining balance account called Gopher GOLD, which is maintained by the University. The University account access features of the U Card include: Gopher GOLDTM Value, FlexDine, Meal Plans, and the Student Account. If an individual chooses to open a checking account with TCF Bank, the U Card may also be used to access that account, marketed as a "U Card Checking Account," and to get cash at TCF Bank ATMs. The U Card also provides access to recreational facilities, the golf course, computer labs, and serves as a building access card.

As of October 31, 2012, there were approximately 30,677 active U Card Checking accounts. At the present time, the University receives approximately \$1,000,000 per year in royalty payments. The annual royalty payments from TCF associated with the U Card agreement have been spent in two areas: student programming initiatives, such as the Gophers After Dark Program (late-night sponsored activities) and Welcome Week, and scholarships for graduate, professional and undergraduate students. TCF Bank also provides an additional \$200,000 each year in marketing support. For the most recent year, 2012, a portion of the TCF Bank marketing funds supported the following student and departmental related programs and activities:

Auxiliary Services - Great Services Week

Housing/Residential Life: No Frills 2012 – The Gopher Way

Bailey Hall Casino Night

Gophers After Dark

University: "Rec, Park and Leisure"

Parking Transportation Fair

University Benefits Fair

University Diversity Breakfast

University Stores Open House

U Card Mitten Drive

U Card Sweet Break

Young Professionals Dinner

Colleges against Cancer - Relay for Life

Student Dental Association: Give Kids a Smile

Men Advocating Gender Equity

Impact Movement

Sigma Lambda Beta – 9th Annual Cultural Celebration

Spring Jam

Persian New Year

Alpha Phi Alpha – MU Chapter Celebration

Alpha Kappa Alpha – Back in the Day

Active Minds: Mental Health Awareness Day